



IMPORTANT FOI UPDATE

FOI Act amendments commence today!

Some important amendments to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Vic) (“FOI Act”) commenced today. They will have an immediate and direct impact on all agencies that deal with the FOI Commissioner in relation to reviews of decisions or complaints about FOI matters.

The changes to the FOI Act were made by the *Freedom of Information and Victorian Inspectorate Acts Amendment Act 2014* (“**Amendment Act**”). The Amendment Act commenced with effect from today.

A number of important changes made by the Amendment Act include:

- Introduction of Assistant Commissioners with power to handle and determine reviews and deal with complaints;
- Allowing agencies to notify the FOI Commissioner that they are reconsidering a decision and may make a fresh decision;
- Clarifying some timing aspects;
- Requiring agencies to notify the FOI Commissioner when reviews of decisions are sought at VCAT;
- Clarifying the role of staff and contractors engaged by the FOI Commissioner.

FOI Solutions is conducting a training session on these amendments and on other legal issues arising from dealings with the FOI Commissioner on **9 October 2014**. Places are limited so get in quick. To register or for more information, click on this: <http://www.foisolutions.com.au/training.php>

If you require any information or advice about how the amendments affect your agency, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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